

PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO DESIGNATE A TYPE SPECIES IN HARMONY WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTED USAGE FOR THE GENUS "PTYCHOPYGE" ANGELIN, 1854 (CLASS TRILOBITA)

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The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers to designate as the type species of the genus *Ptychopyge* Angelin, 1854 (Class Trilobita) the species generally accepted as such, thereby avoiding the serious confusion which would inevitably result from the application of the normal provisions of the *Règles* in this case. The generic name *Ptychopyge* was proposed in 1854 (: 51) by Angelin who included a number of species in this genus.

2. Brögger (1886 : 32) gave the first comprehensive discussion of *Ptychopyge* after Angelin, and stated that "als typische Art dieser Formengruppe [= *Ptychopyge*] . . . dürfte *Pt. angustifrons*, Dalm. gelten können". The genus was treated monographically by Fr. Schmidt (1904 : 30-31) who also regarded *Ptychopyge angustifrons* (Dalm.) as "typische Art der Gattung". The same species was given as the type species of *Ptychopyge* by Reed (1930 : 290) and Skjeseth (1952 : 165). The latter writer attributed the selection of the type species of *Ptychopyge* to Brögger (1886) but the wording in Brögger's paper as cited above can scarcely be regarded as constituting a definite selection of the type species.

3. The nominal species *Ptychopyge appanata* [Sic !] Angelin was designated as the type species of the genus *Ptychopyge* by Vogdes (1890 : 84). This selection by Vogdes was purely formal, given in a list of genera and their type species, and *Ptychopyge applanata* was probably chosen by him because it was the first species of the genus mentioned by Angelin (1854 : 51). Vogdes had no first-hand knowledge either of this genus or of related European genera. In a later list of Trilobite genera Vogdes (1925 : 111) recorded *Ptychopyge glabrata* Angelin, 1854, as the type species of *Ptychopyge*, without giving any explanation as to the reason of the change of the type species.

4. The original material of *Ptychopyge applanata* Angelin, 1854, cannot be traced in the State Museum of Natural History (Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet) in Stockholm, nor has any other specimen resembling Angelin's figure been

obtained from the type region (Kinnekulle, Västergötland, Sweden). Only the pygidium was figured and very briefly described by Angelin (1854 : 51, Pl. XXVII, fig. 6). The figure is, moreover, too roughly drawn (ornamentation being omitted) to allow the identification of the species with certainty. Thus, the name *Ptychopyge applanata* must at present for all practical purposes be regarded as a *nomen dubium*. The genus *Ptychopyge* as defined by Angelin was since then subdivided into several genera and a further subdivision is very likely. The attribution of *Ptychopyge applanata* to any of the genera which show a similar type of pygidium cannot be safely established if based only on the figure of Angelin (1854). If the normal provisions of the *Règles* were strictly applied in this case, the well-known generic name *Ptychopyge* would, therefore, have to be regarded as a *nomen dubium*.

5. In actual fact all workers but Vogdes on the genus *Ptychopyge* and related genera have regarded *Asaphus angustifrons* Dalman, [1827] (: 239), as the type species of *Ptychopyge*. Also for Angelin (1854) this species was more completely known than any other species referred by him to *Ptychopyge*.

6. The generic name *Ptychopyge* Angelin, 1854, has not been taken as the base for a family-group name, Angelin's genus being currently referred to the family ASAPHIDAE.

7. In the light of the foregoing considerations, I ask that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should :—

(1) use its Plenary Powers :—

(a) to set aside all type selections for the genus *Ptychopyge* Angelin, 1854, made prior to the decision now proposed to be given ;

(b) to designate *Asaphus angustifrons* Dalman, [1827], to be the type species of the foregoing genus ;

(2) place the generic name *Ptychopyge* Angelin, 1854 (gender : feminine) (type species, by designation, as proposed under (1)(b) above, under the Plenary Powers : *Asaphus angustifrons* Dalman, [1827]) on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* ;

(3) place the specific name *angustifrons* Dalman, [1827], as published in the combination *Asaphus angustifrons* (specific name of type species of *Ptychopyge* Angelin, 1854) on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*.

8. A decision on the question dealt with in the present application is urgently required in connection with the preparation of the forthcoming *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology* and for this reason it is particularly hoped that it will be possible for the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to settle this question as quickly as possible.

## References

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SUPPORT FOR C. POULSEN'S PROPOSAL TO VALIDATE THE GENERIC  
NAME "SAO" BARRANDE, 1846 (CLASS TRILOBITA)

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(For the proposal in this case see *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 12 : 131-135)

(Letter dated 28th September 1956)

I heartily support the application made by Professor C. Poulsen regarding the name *Sao* Barrande, 1846 (Class Trilobita) and related matters.